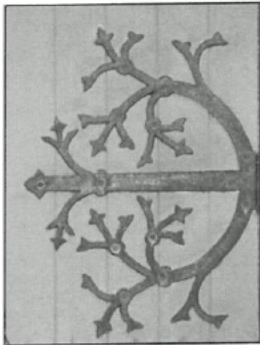


# BUFFY'S CORNER

Conserve, Educate and Celebrate Brampton's History

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE Brampton Historical Society Volume 12 • Issue 3 • Fall/Winter 2010



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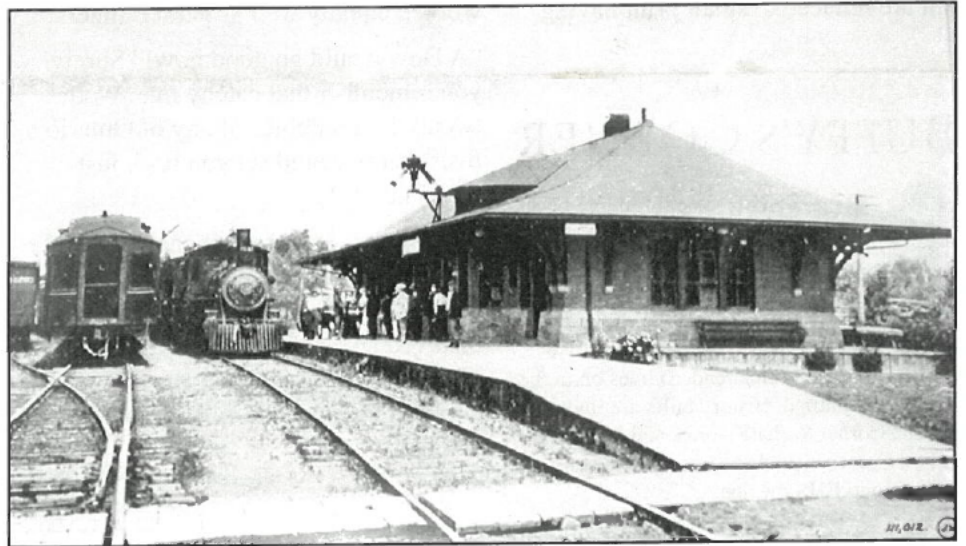


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## Brampton CPR Station On Track for New Home

— by Jason Boyer, BHS Editor

*After many years of service the CPR station at the corner of Queen Street and Park Street saw the last passenger train pull away in November, 1970. From that point on the station had many ups and downs. It was used as a storage facility for 10 years and when the railway was going to tear down the building the Brampton Heritage Board stepped in and saved it. John Hutton bought the building for \$1 and moved it to a different site on the 3rd Line West (now Creditview Rd) and operated a nursery out of it until 1988 at which point the building fell into a state of disrepair. In 1995 the building was facing demolition again and the founding members of the Brampton Historical Society stepped in and saved the building.*



CPR Station in its heyday. — photo courtesy Peel Archives

Finally, after years of dedication, hard work and delays the Brampton CPR Station has found a new home. The CPR Station has always been of particular concern to BHS as the preservation of the station was one of the main reasons for the formation of the Brampton Historical Society. Fifteen years after the building was carefully documented and dismantled

the historically significant building has finally found a home in the new Mount Pleasant development in Brampton.

Mount Pleasant is a new community off Creditview Rd just north of the Mount Pleasant Go Train station. Mount Pleasant is currently under construction but planning and sales materials indicate it is to be a new

— continued on page 4

## President's Message

– Peter Murphy, BHS President

When you are used to throwing nothing away, the chances are you will unearth interesting items from time to time: A 1964 Official Road Map of Ontario for example. John Robarts was Prime Minister and Charles McNaughton was the minister overseeing the Department of Highways.

Preston, Hespeler and Galt were still towns in their own right. On Hwy 10, between Brampton and Port Credit, all that's shown is Derry West and Cooksville.

On the corresponding map for 1980, Bill Davis was Premier and James Snow, of his own highway fame, was the Minister of Transportation and Communication. Preston, Hespeler and Galt are reduced to small print having

being subsumed by Cambridge. Gone are Derry West and Cooksville with the creation of Mississauga a few years earlier.

More fascinating stuff is to be found in the 1971 Ontario Liquor Store Price List, a copy of which I have. Interestingly, the minister of the day chose not to have his name appear anywhere in the booklet. Right in line with the angst and anonymity of the brown paper bag era I believe.

I wouldn't expect you to recall the expression "Come alive for a dollar five" since you likely moved in finer circles. But those impecunious tipplers did have a choice of ten Canadian sherries at that price, for a twenty-six ounce bottle. Perhaps Barnes Catawba rings a bell? These products were best served to unwelcome guests and worked equally well as paint thinners.

"A Dow would go good now!" Surely you remember that catchy line. Well, twenty four stubbies of any of Ontario's finest beers would set you back just \$5.15 in 1971.

I distinctly remember when the price of the 'two-four' rose by fifteen cents, up from \$5.00. Many of my friends resolved never to buy another case of beer but even Stephen Hawking couldn't measure the half-life of their resolve.

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## Let the Punishment Fit the Crime...

– Michael Avis, BHS Liaison

Hopefully, many of you read the recent article by Peter Criscione in the Brampton Guardian outlining the results in the case of illegal demolition, in December 2008, of a heritage building by developer Jagdeep Sandhu.

The Gummed Paper Building (built 1913), an excellent example of the Chicago school of architecture, was located for almost a hundred years on Henderson Avenue and was one of the very few remaining examples of early 20th century industrial buildings in Brampton. Gummed Papers was a significant local employer and played a prominent role in Brampton's very early industrial days. Because of the importance of this building, the Brampton Heritage Board had already initiated the process of 'heritage designation' under the provisions of the Ontario Heritage Act. When the bulldozer illegally demolished the building, Brampton lost a significant built heritage asset. As if to minimize the possibility of detection, Sandhu carried out his illegal activity in the early hours of the morning and in doing so he thumbed his nose at City Council, you, me and every other resident of Brampton.

Mr. Criscione's article outlined the long awaited outcome of the legal proceedings initiated by the City against developer Jagdeep Sandhu brought about by his flagrant disregard of the law which saw him willfully destroy an important piece of Brampton's industrial past. While Sandhu plead guilty to the offence, the Court saw fit to fine him a paltry \$25,000.00 plus approximately \$5000.00 court costs. It is somewhat puzzling to the Brampton Historical Society that while new provisions in the Ontario Heritage Act provide for fines of up to \$1 million and

– continued on page 6

## BUFFY'S CORNER



**Brampton  
Historical  
Society**

Local folklore has it that Buffy's Corner was the original name of Brampton and the site of a

respectable tavern owned by William Buffy. His pioneer spirit (pun intended) lives on in the name of our journal. History buffs are invited into The Corner to share stories and comments. Buffy's Corner is published four times per year and is free to BHS members.

Co-Editors ..... Jason Boyer, Dawn Friesen  
Design & Layout ..... Dawn Friesen  
Printed by ..... Peel Graphics Inc.  
Distribution ..... Peter Murphy

### BHS Executive 2009-2010

President ..... Peter Murphy  
Vice President/Outreach ..... Michael Avis  
Treasurer ..... Ron Raffan  
Recording Secretary ..... Paul Willoughby  
Membership Secretary ..... Cathy Willoughby  
Programme/Research ..... Rob Hunter  
Publicity ..... Gloria Berger  
Social ..... Jack Drew  
Newsletter ..... Jason Boyer

For more information visit

[www.bramptonhistoricalsociety.com](http://www.bramptonhistoricalsociety.com)

## Paul Hunt Bursary

The Paul Hunt Bursary Award is open to any student who is a resident of Brampton, graduating from a public or separate secondary school within the Region of Peel and who has been accepted into an accredited Canadian post-secondary institution in a history or related program. The \$500 bursaries are awarded on an annual basis.

For more information visit

[www.bramptonhistoricalsociety.com](http://www.bramptonhistoricalsociety.com)



# Enjoy a night out with us....

*BHS Meetings feature speakers on a variety of interesting subjects followed by refreshments and a chance to visit with your fellow BHS members.*

**7:15 pm on the 3rd Thursday of each month (excluding July, August and December).**

**Heart Lake Community Presbyterian Church 25 Ruth Avenue, Brampton (unless otherwise specified)**

**Members Free / Non-Members \$5**

**Thursday, October 21**

**Damian MacSeáin**  
**A Year in a Log Cabin**

**Thursday, November 18**

**Garry Wilton**  
*author of*  
**History of the**  
**Brampton Fire Department**

**Thursday, January 20**

**Diane Allengame**  
*What's going on at the*  
**Peel Heritage Complex**

**Thursday, February 17**

**Brian Gilchrist**  
**Genealogy**

**Thursday, March 17**

**BHS AGM &**  
**Report from the**  
**Brampton Heritage Group**

**Thursday, April 21**

**Doug Wrigglesworth**  
*with a presentation on*  
**Shirlock Holmes**

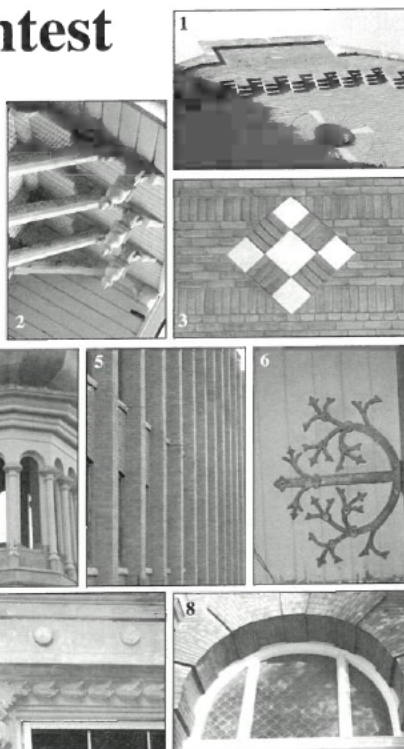
## BHS Summer Contest

Congratulations go to **Christine Bonney** who was the first to respond with all of the correct answers. She was closely followed by **Lorna McCluskey** who not only had the answers correct, but also provided the names of the architectural details associated with each photograph.

Prizes for both Christine and Lorna will be awarded at the October BHS meeting.

**The correct answers are:**

1. Brampton Armoury
2. Alderlea
3. Dominion Skate Building
4. Peel County Courthouse
5. Hewetson Shoe Building
6. Grace Church
7. Central Public School
8. Carnegie Library



## WANTED \$500 REWARD



### PAUL HUNT BURSARY AWARD

Open to any student who is a resident of Brampton, graduating from a public or separate secondary school within the Region of Peel and who has been accepted into an accredited Canadian post-secondary institution and who intends to major in Canadian history or related subjects.

See details at [WWW.BramptonHistoricalSociety.com/Bursary.htm](http://WWW.BramptonHistoricalSociety.com/Bursary.htm)



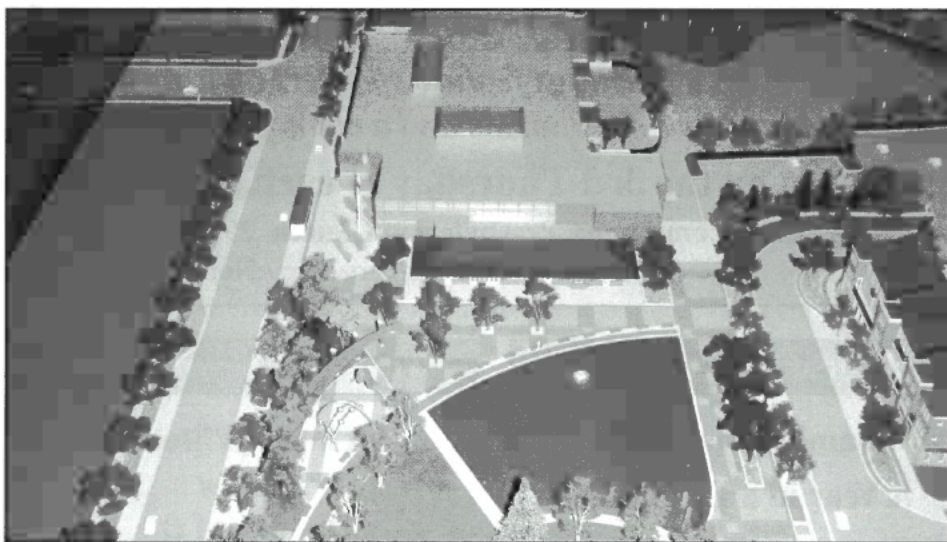
**Brampton Historical Society**

Thanks goes to Ron Raffan, BHS Treasurer, for his outreach efforts for the Paul Hunt Bursary including creating and distributing the poster above.

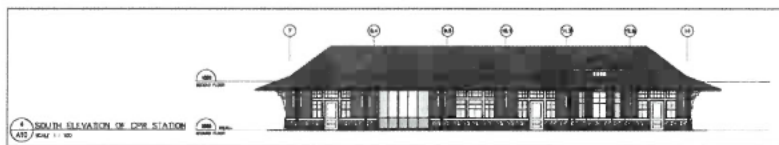
## CPR Station...

type of community that integrates mixed use properties with a variety of housing options that are well connected by public transit, parks, walking paths and community amenities. Public art installations will focus on the community's link to the rail lines of the past and the present making this development an appropriate new home for the CPR station.

As you can see in the accompanying artist renderings the CPR station



— photo of model and illustrations courtesy  
Makrimichalos Cugini Architects



will be rebuilt at the front of the new Secondary School/Library facility. From the images available on the City of Brampton website it looks like the Mount Pleasant retail areas and town square are going to have a historical facade to them which should make for a good fit for the CPR station. According to the Mount Pleasant Village page on the City of Brampton website "the reconstructed historic CPR station structure is to be used as a cultural facility in the

Mt. Pleasant civic square shared with the Peel District School Board and the Library."

Looking at the Master Plan PHASE 1 on the City of Brampton website it appears the Secondary School/Library building will be located just north of the Mount Pleasant GO Station north of the Civic Square. It looks like the CPR station will appropriately be facing the railway tracks. Indications are that the CPR station will specifically be used as a community services

building but more details are not available at the time of publication.

Unfortunately it is difficult to find more detailed information at this point in time but it looks like sometime within the next year or so the hard work and dedication of many members of the Brampton Historical Society will finally payoff. The reconstructed CPR station will stand again and will provide another reminder for many generations to come of the rich and varied history of the city of Brampton.

*Documenting and dismantling the CPR Station. — photos from Brampton Historical Society Archives*





# Peel Heritage Complex Update

— by Jason Boyer, BHS Editor  
— photos courtesy  
Peel Heritage Complex staff

The Peel Heritage Complex renovations are now in full swing. Diane Allengame gave Buffy's Corner an update on how things are proceeding and also provided some photos of the renovation in progress. At this point in time demolition work is completed at all buildings, including remediation of all existing hazardous building materials. The existing atria between 3 & 5 Wellington (the former Peel Living/Hydro building) and 7 & 9 Wellington (former link) have been completely removed.

Major infrastructure work is also underway with the steel framing of the new roof structure to house the HVAC system at 5 Wellington completed, the underpinning of the main electrical room in the basement of the courthouse completed and the major mechanical equipment is being installed and mechanical and electrical rough in work has commenced. As far as new structures and features are concerned the footing foundation is completed at the Jail for the new workshop extension (into the former parking lot). Planning wise PHC has received approval on the majority of

the shot drawings and completed design for the connecting tunnel between the two buildings.

While the building renovations are in progress the staff at PHC are busy preparing for the new programs that will be offered when PHC reopens. Strategic planning with the Advisory Board, including setting strategic directions and goals for the next 4 years has now been completed. Plans for exhibits at the expanded Museum and Art Gallery are already underway for 2011 through 2013. A grant was also received from the Federal Department of Heritage to plan and design the Aboriginal Gallery and a request for proposals for a museum designer is underway. Overall it's a very exciting and busy time for a facility that we are proud to have in historic downtown Brampton. Buffy's Corner will keep you updated on progress with the ongoing

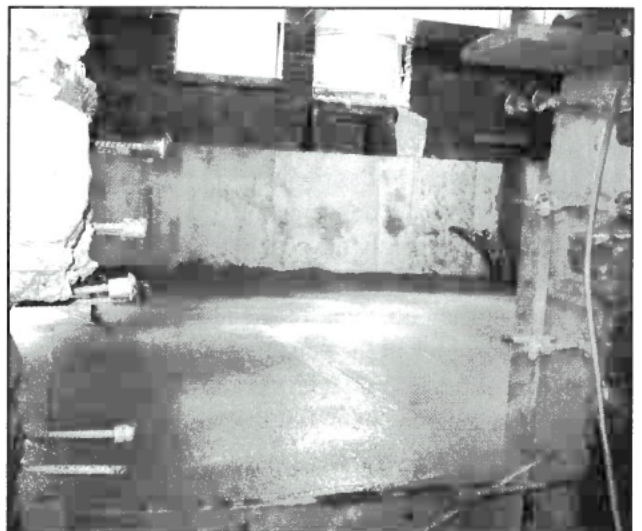


Workers looking onto the new Members Lounge on the second floor and construction has begun on the loading door for the art gallery (left hand side) is well on its way.

renovations and maybe we can get a sneak peek at the new facilities as we get closer to the reopening of the facility. It will be nice to have the new and improved PHC open again and all of the new facilities, programs and exhibits will surely be a benefit to anyone interested in the history of Brampton and Peel Region.

For more information you can go to the Peel Heritage Complex page on the Peel Region website: [www.peelregion.ca/heritage](http://www.peelregion.ca/heritage)

*We are moving along nicely! These two pictures are of the Courthouse basement, one at the start of the excavation, and the other taken recently.*





## President's Message

– continued from page 2

On an entirely different matter, that of Buffy's Corner: Over the next few months we will be reviewing Buffy's Corner with a goal of bringing you a new and improved newsletter in 2011. This issue will serve as the Fall/Winter issue for 2010 while we are completing our review and redesign. If anyone has any suggestions or ideas for future Buffy's Corner publications please contact myself or any one of the Board members. ♦

## The Crime

– continued from page 2

possible jail time for those found guilty of deliberately destroying buildings of historical importance, the court saw fit, in this case, to assess a very lenient penalty.

Over the last year or so the City has lost several heritage buildings with arson as the probable cause in every case. Because of this the City and the Brampton Heritage Board are engaged in beefing-up municipal by-laws for the purpose of imposing more stringent conditions on developers who own heritage buildings. They are legally bound to protect their heritage buildings temporarily vacant though they may be.

All of us at BHS sincerely hope that this particular case does not inadvertently send the wrong message to other developers who may be tempted to consider similar illegal acts. We must never let developers regard the fines as merely the cost of doing business and a simple petty cash expenditure. If they do, then we need to take a long hard look at the penalties. In the words of the immortal Gilbert & Sullivan, "Let the punishment fit the crime!" ♦

## BHS In the Field



*Simcoe House Hillsdale: Left half as it now stands and the right half a visualization of what could be.*

### Simcoe House Hillsdale

At the invitation of **The Hillsdale Hotel Foundation, Inc.** members of our BHS Executive recently visited **Simcoe House Hillsdale**. Located just off Hwy 400 on the road known both as Penetanguishene Rd. and Hwy 93, the village of Hillsdale was an important link with the upper Great Lakes.

A substantial number of original buildings in the town still stand and one of them is **Simcoe House Hillsdale**. Renowned as the half-way point between Barrie and the Military and Naval establishment in Penetanguishene, **Simcoe House Hillsdale** is the last surviving stage coach stop of this era. Here you'll find stories of the early days after the War of 1812, the rise of the lumber trade, the clearing of the land and the settlement of Simcoe County.

Slated for demolition an important piece of our Canadian history is at risk of being lost forever. **The Hillsdale Hotel Foundation, Inc.** was organized to reach out for help in this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to restore a part of our past.

The structure remains surprisingly solid and engineers have deemed the hotel a good candidate for restoration. The interior layout is original, the wood trim, moulding, window sashes, doors, floors and dados retain their paint and the door latches and hinges are still the original hardware. The hotel survives almost intact from the way it was built, ready to once again welcome visitors.

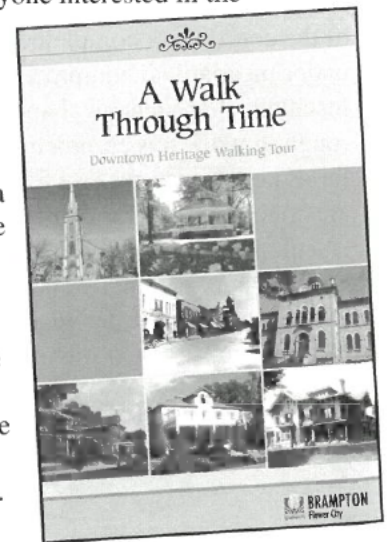
For more information or to donate:

**Simcoe House Hillsdale**

Box 39, Hillsdale, ON, L0L 1V0  
foundation @hillsdalesimcoehouse.com  
www.hillsdalesimcoehouse.com  
705-835-6054

## A Walk Through Time: Downtown Heritage Walking Tour

The City of Brampton has put together an excellent walking tour of heritage buildings and sites in downtown Brampton. Although the entire project appears to be well executed one of the most impressive features of the walking tour is the guidebook. It is jam packed full of information including a timeline of the city's history, a numbered map of the destinations covered in the tour, a helpful guide to the various architectural styles found in the city and even a page at the back to jot down your own memories. But the most impressive part of the guide is the actual information on each stop on the tour. Each page has several photos from the present and the past where available, detailed information on how to get to the location and plenty of historical information about the site. Even if you don't do the walking tour (which you should) anyone interested in the history of Brampton should make a point of acquiring a copy of the guidebook because it is an impressive and informative document on its own.



You can pick up your *free* copy of the guide at the **Brampton Enterprise Centre Tourism Kiosk** - 33 Queen Street West; **City Hall** - 2 Wellington Street West; one of **Brampton's Libraries**; or call **Tourism Brampton** at 905.874.3601. You can also download a PDF copy of the guide from the City of Brampton website: [www.brampton.ca/en/Documents/Digital-Publications/heritage-walking-tour/index.htm](http://www.brampton.ca/en/Documents/Digital-Publications/heritage-walking-tour/index.htm)



## Upcoming Events & Exhibitions *You Won't Want to Miss!*

### Historic Bovaird House



A prime example of the Georgian Revival style of architecture and a museum of household artifacts and furnishings from 1840 - 1910.

Open for Guided or Self Guided Tours:  
Wednesday, Saturday & Sunday  
12 - 4 pm  
mid-February to mid-December

Southeast corner of  
Kennedy Rd. N. & Bovaird Dr. E.  
Brampton, Ontario

905-874-2804

bovairdhouse@yahoo.ca  
www.bovairdhouse.ca

### Girl Guide Day

October 16th

(Sparks and Brownies too, of course)

RESERVATIONS NOW BEING TAKEN

### Desserts by Lamplight

**SOLD OUT** October 29-30

Reservations will be taken  
as of September 1st, 2010



Historic Bovaird House *presents*  
*Victorian Christmas*  
Open House and Carriage House Craft Sale

December 4th & 5th  
10am - 4pm

Enjoy afternoon tea or spicy apple cider  
and Christmas sweets in front of the blazing fire.

Makers of fine, handmade crafts will be displaying  
and selling their wares throughout the house.

Reservations are not required. For information call or visit

www.bovairdhouse.ca (905) 874-2804

### Peel Heritage Complex Closed but Staying Connected

During the closure, we'll be on the  
road, bringing informative, colourful  
presentations and programs to the  
community.

We're also working at building new  
connections with the community  
through meetings, workshops and  
collaborations. Strengthening our  
relationship with Peel's Aboriginal  
community, multicultural community  
and our heritage partners will be a  
priority for the next year.

*Want to get involved?  
Know someone we should talk to?*

Call us! 905-791-4055 or visit us  
at [www.peelheritagecomplex.org](http://www.peelheritagecomplex.org)

### BHS MEETINGS

7:15 pm  
on the third thursday  
of each month

*See page 3 for details of  
upcoming presentations.*

Heart Lake Community  
Presbyterian Church  
25 Ruth Avenue, Brampton  
(unless otherwise noted on page 3)

DOOR PRIZES  
REFRESHMENTS

Members Free  
Non-Members \$5

There are no meetings during the  
months of July, August & December.

### Application for Membership in the Brampton Historical Society

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Household Members: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ I enclose a Household Membership fee of \$20 for one full year.

☐ I wish to enclose an additional donation to the Society of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

A tax receipt is issued for donations to the Brampton Historical Society. Reg. Charity 87476-5720 RR0001.

American money accepted at par.

Please mail cheque or money order to:

Brampton Historical Society

P.O. Box 751

Brampton, ON

L6W 4S4



## 2010 BHS Trip to Pickering Pioneer Village and Parkwood Estates, Oshawa

